CLAIMS

1.   A method on a central computer of providing data to a client computer, comprising the steps of:

5   accepting a request for data from a client computer; and

transmitting a partial response to the client computer, wherein the partial response contains a nonce value, and wherein the nonce value is digitally signed and is used to authorize a limited number of accesses to data on a remote computer.

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2.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of charging an entity upon use of the nonce value for at least one of the accesses.

3.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the nonce value comprises an

15   expiration time.

4.   A method of controlling access to data on a remote computer, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting a request for a data item, wherein the request contains a nonce value which has been digitally signed with a digital signature;

5   verifying the nonce value, wherein the step of verifying the nonce value comprises the step of verifying the digital signature; and

responding to the request by returning the data item if the nonce value is valid and has been previously used fewer than a limited number of times.

10   5.   The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of charging an entity upon performance of the step of responding in conjunction with the use of the nonce value.

6.   The method according to claim 4, wherein the nonce value comprises an
15   expiration time.

7.   The method according to claim 4, wherein step of verifying comprises comparing the nonce value to a list of stored and valid nonce values.

20   8.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the list of stored and valid nonce values is shared with an entity that originated the data request.

9.   A method of obtaining service from a secure data server, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting a partial response from a first computer, wherein the partial response comprises a nonce value and a specification of a remote computer, and wherein the nonce value is signed with a digital signature;

transmitting a service request to the remote computer, wherein the service request comprises the nonce value; and

receiving a service response from the remote computer if the nonce value was valid.

10.   The method according to claim 9, wherein the service request comprises one of a request for a data item and a request for a computing service.

11.   A central computer system for providing data to a client computer, the system comprising:

a request message receiver for accepting a request for data from a client computer; and

5   a partial response transmitter transmitting for transmitting a partial response to the client computer, wherein the partial response contains a nonce value, and wherein the nonce value is digitally signed and is used to authorize a limited number of accesses to data on a remote computer.

10   12.   The system according to claim 11, further comprising a billing module for charging an entity upon use of the nonce value for at least one of the accesses.

13.   The system according to claim 11, wherein the nonce value comprises an expiration time.

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14.   A system for controlling access to data on a computer, the system comprising:

a request receiver for accepting a request for a data item, wherein the request contains a nonce value, wherein the nonce value is digitally signed by a

5   digital signature;

a nonce verifier for verifying the nonce value, wherein the nonce verifier performs at least a verification of the digital signature; and

a response generator for responding to the request by returning the data item if the nonce value is valid and has been previously used fewer than a limited

10   number of times.

15.   The system according to claim 14, further comprising a billing module for charging an entity upon use of the nonce value for the onetime access.

15   16.   The system according to claim 14, wherein the nonce value comprises an expiration time.

17.   A system for obtaining service from a secure data server, the system comprising the steps of:

a partial response receiver for accepting a partial response from a first computer, wherein the partial response comprises a nonce value and a

5   specification of a remote computer, and wherein the nonce value is digitally signed by a digital signature;

a request transmitter for transmitting a service request to the remote computer, wherein the service request comprises the nonce value; and

a service response receiver for receiving a service response from the

10   remote computer if the nonce value was valid.

18.   The system according to claim 17, wherein the service request comprises a request for a data item.

19.   A computer readable medium including computer instructions for controlling communications access to remote processors, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

accepting a request for data from a client computer; and

5   transmitting a partial response to the client computer, wherein the partial response contains a nonce value, wherein the nonce value is digitally signed with a digital signature and the nonce value is used to authorize a limited number of accesses to data on a remote computer.

10   20.   The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising instructions for charging an entity for at least one of the accesses.

21.   The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the nonce value comprises an expiration time.

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22.   A computer readable medium including computer instructions for controlling communications access to computer, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

        accepting a request for a data item, wherein the request contains a nonce

5   value, wherein the nonce value is digitally signed with a digital signature;

        verifying the nonce value, wherein the instructions for verifying comprise instructions for verifying the digital signature; and

        responding to the request by returning the data item if the nonce value was verified by the instructions for verifying and the nonce value is valid and has

10   been previously used fewer than a limited number of times.

23.   The computer readable medium according to claim 22, further comprising instructions for charging an entity upon use of the nonce value for the onetime access.

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24.   The computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the nonce value comprises an expiration time.

25. A computer readable medium including computer instructions for obtaining service from a secure data server, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

accepting a partial response from a first computer, wherein the partial

5 response comprises a nonce value and a specification of a remote computer, wherein the nonce value is digitally signed with a digital signature;

transmitting a service request to the remote computer, wherein the service request comprises the nonce value; and

receiving a service response from the remote computer if the nonce value

10 was valid.

26. The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the service request comprises a request for a data item.

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